

## Digging Deeper During the Week!

Selecting God's choices for church leadership involves understanding and preparation of our hearts for this eventuality! It is God's desire that we recognize His selections for the leadership of His church. *All you have to do is discover God's heart and be willing to follow it!*

### **Monday**                      **Leadership From the Heart!** 28-Jan                      1 Samuel 16.1-15

Leaders have to have a singleness of obedience to God's revealed word. In this account of the first king of Israel's early years of service, we discover that Saul disobeys God's direct command and in that act, disqualifies himself from God's favor and blessing.

- King Saul relied on what he saw instead of the One whom he served. What do you discover are the reasons for Saul's disobedience? In your opinion, how do these factors affect good leadership?
- King Saul's one disobedience here caused God to search for and find another leader for His people. What was the quality that God was looking for in this next leader? How would this quality affect everything the leader does in his service for God?

### **Tuesday**                      **Leaders Are Shepherds!** 29-Jan                      1 Chronicles 11.1-3

As we examine the characteristics of leadership from King Saul's successor, let's contemplate their significance to our situation.

- King David is told by God "you shall shepherd my people." Consider what a shepherd does, according to the text: "You were the one that led Israel out and brought them in." How does this aspect of leadership strengthen the qualification of godly leadership?
- A second trait of a godly leader is that they are to "be ruler over my people." Ruling God's people can be a consuming task.. What would you want the people you serve to do and be if you were this leader?

### **Wednesday**                      **Leaders Are to Be Blameless!** 30-Jan                      1 Timothy 3.1-3

The New Testament church leader is to meet certain specific qualifications. Let's look at this first of three description of these.

- God's leaders are to be blameless – not sinless. 'Blameless' indicates a life lived in reconciliation with God and man. How does this aspect of leadership lead to greater influence within the flock?

- Blamelessness encompasses a great deal of areas, which this passage explores. How would this description (2-3) extend the effectiveness of one's leadership when possessed?

### **Thursday**                      **Leaders at Home First!** 31-Jan                      1 Timothy 3.4-5

Effective church leaders have a reputation of good leadership in the home. Meditate on the meaning of this as you answer ...

- Leadership is again affirmed as 'ruling' in this passage – the act of presiding over one's family, especially over one's children. As you think about the implications of this upon leaders, consider the abilities necessary to effectively lead children. What implications does this have for the Biblical leader today?
- The question posed to us (5) is profound and simple. What are your responses to this Scriptural question?

### **Friday**                      **Proven Leaders!** 1-Feb                      1 Timothy 3.6-7

The leadership of the local church is no place to get 'on-the-job' training in basic leadership skills. Consider these questions of today's passage:

- Since the leader is to be someone who is a disciplined follower of Jesus and not a new convert, they have settled the issue of personal pride in their lives. How does this make a difference in the leader?
- A good reputation within the community they live and work in is essential for effective church leadership. Why is this so?

### **Saturday**                      **Leaders Are Followed!** 2-Feb                      Matthew 8.1-22

Effective leaders are sought out for their wisdom and counsel. In the church, calling people to follow is essential for effectiveness.

- We see Jesus drawing people of all kinds of needs to Himself in this passage (1-17). Jesus had something to offer and people came to Him to receive it. Church leaders need to possess something people seek if they are to lead well. What do you think leaders need?
- Once people seek out the leader, effectiveness is demonstrated in his ability to both issue the call to greater commitment and the ability to encourage those he calls to make that commitment. How does Jesus illustrate these qualities which every church leader should possess?